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EXCISE

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ACTION EA 19

INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,SP 02,SS 20,
GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,L 03,H 02,SAH 03,SAL 01,P 04,INR 07,
AID 30,IO 21,EUR 25,RSR 01,/153 W

P R 241100Z OCT 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9523
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4723
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 1229
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2892

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Zenberg DATE 1/26/82
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9421

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS: THE WINNERS IN KIEN GIANG

REF: SAIGON 7297

1. REFTEL REPORTED ON CANDIDATES FOR LOWER HOUSE FROM KIEN GIANG WHERE THREE VIETNAMESE AND 1. CAMBODIAN SEATS WERE AT STAKE:

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2. THE VIETNAMESE WINNERS:
A. DANG VAN PHUONG, 41, 18,084 VOTES. BUDDHIST NORTHERN REFUGEE, HAS SPENT 12 YEARS IN KIEN GIANG AS PROVINCIAL OFFICIAL. SUPERVISED TRAINING PROGRAM FOR RECENTLY ELECTED VILLAGE AND HAMLET OFFICIALS AND

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COOPERATED WITH BUI NHUT NGHIA (SEE BELOW) IN ORGANIZING SUPPORT AMONG THEM. GRADUATED FROM POLICE ACADEMY OF PARIS AND SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ADMINISTRATION CORRESPONDENCE COURSE. FORMER ECONOMIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINING CHIEF IN KIEN GIANG. TOOK A HARD LINE ON PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. EMPHASIZES INCREASED AUTONOMY FOR VILLAGES IN ORDER TO FULFILL ASPIRATIONS OF PEOPLE. APPEARS ENERGETIC AND INTELLIGENT

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B. TA GNOC MAI, 35, 15,664 VOTES. BORN IN RACH GIA. CATHOLIC, USED CATHOLIC STAR AS SYMBOL. PROBABLY ELECTED AS RESULT OF LAST MOMENT AGREEMENT AMONG CATHOLICS WHO CONTROL SIGNIFICANT BLOC VOTE IN KIEN GIANG BUT WHO WERE PREVIOUSLY DIVIDED. PLATFORM INCLUDED PROTECTION OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY, PEACE

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WITH HONOR, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REFORM AND PROMISES OF LOCAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPROVEMENT. HAS HELD CIVIL SERVICE JOBS IN KIEN GIANG FOR SEVERAL YEARS.
C. BUI NHUT NGHIA, 51, 15,463 VOTES. CHAIRMAN OF RACH GIA VILLAGE COMMITTEE 1961-67 AND RECENTLY ELECTED CHAIRMAN RACH GIA VILLAGE COUNCIL. PLATFORM INCLUDES PEACE WITH HONOR, DEMOCRACY, AND SOCIAL REFORM. IN SPEECHES STATED THAT ELECTIONS HAD ALREADY INCREASED VILLAGE OFFICIALS' ABILITY TO ACT AND MONEY VOTED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF LOWER HOUSE WOULD HELP ALLEVIATE VILLAGE BUDGET PROBLEM. NGHIA IS ACTIVE AND INTELLIGENT

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3. THE CAMBODIAN WINNER:
DANH CUONG, 39, 45,445 VOTES. HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION. PLATFORM INCLUDES PEACE, DEMOCRACY, SOCIAL REFORM AND CLAIM THAT HE WILL NOT WORK AGAINST INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE. CLAIMED THAT PEACE WHEN IT CAME MUST NOT BE SUCH AS TO MAKE EFFORTS MADE BY MILITARY SO FAR IN VAIN. DANH CUONG DEFEATED DANH THU, CANDIDATE OF

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CAMBODIAN MONK DANH BAO WHOSE OTHER CANDIDATE RAN
UNOPPOSED IN CHUONG THIEN. CUONG HAD MORE MONEY AND
SPOKE BETTER VIETNAMESE, AND MAY HAVE BEEN WON BY
VIETNAMESE RATHER THAN CAMBODIAN VOTE. BUNKER

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